

Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached hereto are replacement sheets of drawings which correspond to the original sheets of drawings with formal drawing line quality.

Arguments/Remarks

This paper is submitted responsive to the Office Action mailed May 31, 2006. Reconsideration of the application in light of the accompanying remarks and amendments is respectfully requested.

In the aforesaid Office Action, the Examiner withdrew claims 1-12 and 20 from consideration as expected.

The Examiner also withdrew claim 19 from consideration asserting that the elected species is drawn only to releasing positive pressure above a maximum positive pressure threshold. While claim 19 is indeed directed to a species which is different from other claims dependent from claim 13, it is noted that the Examiner has never asserted a restriction requirement against these claims, and thus Applicant has not been afforded an opportunity to elect any such species. While later added claims can frequently be withdrawn by the Examiner based upon constructive election of species implied from gaining examination on the originally filed claims, that is not the case here, claim 19 is an originally filed claim and is no less constructively elected than the other claims in the application.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a species restriction between claims 14-18, 21-22 and claim 19 is appropriate, an action entering such a restriction and providing the applicant an opportunity to respond, is the proper procedure. Of course, claim 13 would be a generic claim to those species. Until such time as a proper restriction requirement is made, consideration of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Turning to the drawings, the Examiner has objected to the drawings as containing lines which are not uniformly

thick and well defined. This is because the drawings filed are informal drawings. Formal drawings are enclosed as replacement sheets, and these drawings are believed to respond to the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner objected to claim 18 as containing language without proper antecedent basis. This has been corrected by the present amendment.

Finally, the Examiner has rejected claims 12-18 and 21-22 as anticipated by US 4403988 to Binard.

To the extent that Binard applies to the claims as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed as follows.

Independent claims 13 and 21 have been amended to recite the subject matter of now cancelled claim 17. This claim calls for the valve to be adapted to allow selection of the threshold from a plurality of different thresholds.

The Examiner indicated that Binard teaches this subject matter, apparently because Binard teaches at column 5, lines 61-64, that the pressure can be selected by selecting an appropriate spring. Thus, during manufacture of the Binard device, it appears that the spring is selected based upon the desired release pressure.

This is completely different from the present invention, one embodiment of which is illustrated in Figure 3, wherein a movable member 28 can be positioned to different locations where different forces on the spring are needed to release pressure. In addition to the amendment to claim 13, independent claim 21 has also been amended to include this subject matter, and new dependent claims 23 and 24 have been added to specifically call for the movable member. It is submitted that the teachings of


Binard neither disclose nor suggest the subject matter of the present claims.

Dependent claims 14-16 and 18-19 and 24 all depend directly or indirectly from claim 13 and are submitted to be allowable based upon this dependency and further in their own right.

Dependent claims 22-23 depend from claim 21 and are submitted to be allowable based upon this dependency and further in their own right.

A request for extension of time accompanies this paper, along with authorization to charge the fee to a Deposit Account. It is believed that no additional fee is due. If any such fee or fee deficiency is due, please charge same to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,



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I, George A. Coury, hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents" P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 30, 2006



George A. Coury